

# The San Diego Union

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## RED SECRETS INVOLVED

### CPYRG Beria—A Story We Cannot Ignore

WHEREVER HE MAY BE, dead or alive, Lavrenti Beria holds information so important it could affect the future security of the world.

Perhaps he did die with these facts. He may be in prison. But there also is a possibility he lives with his secrets—hiding in a remote area of Spain.

Walter Winchell, in a telecast, properly evaluated the conjecture over Beria when he said that whether it was true or false, it is too big to reject without investigation.

The Western world has been dumfounded at information the Soviets have the know-how to produce the hydrogen bomb. Consternation is intensified because of lack of knowledge as to how far the Reds have gone in production of bombs and whether or not they have the long range bombers to deliver the bombs on the United States and other Western countries.

Facing this problem, every agency of the government, and particularly the State Department, should leave no stone unturned in an all-out effort to obtain this atomic and military information.

It's possible Beria could answer these questions.

Certainly, the United States ought not overlook even a vague possibility that a possible source for this information may lie at the end of the trail to the alleged Beria. Unconfirmed reports hold he wants to make a deal for asylum in the United States in return for up-to-the-minute information on Soviet atomic, military and espionage information.

Never has the American State Department, its Central Intelligence Agency, or any other government agency had almost beyond imagination.

tion comparable to that which the alleged Beria claims he will give.

It is clear it is the obligation of responsible government officials and agencies to determine the truth or falsity of the claim Beria wants to give this government all this vital information.

Fabio Gallo, the international political figure who claims he is the intermediary for Beria, has given regular reports on his purported progress to the United States' investigative agencies for many weeks.

The investigation culminated in reports to the State Department by government agencies during the week of Sept. 13. Yesterday, more than two weeks later, no progress had been announced by the United States government although the Spanish Ministry of Police had been conducting an intensive search.

To sum up, Beria, or an alleged Beria, claims he will give vital atomic and other information to this country in return for asylum. He has asked for assurance of this asylum through secret channels to United States officials and through published stories in The San Diego Union and newspapers throughout the world. Such assurance has not been given.

The whole matter well may be a giant hoax or a nefarious Communist plot somehow to damage the position of the United States in world politics. Nevertheless, that one long chance to bag Beria and all he knows cannot be rejected.

The State Department's clear responsibility to the people of the United States is to culminate this matter properly, exposing it as a hoax or delivering the goods—the truth. It is the duty of the State Department to do this.

# Spain Police Seek Aid in 'Beria' Case

Reporter to Work  
With Intermediary,  
Try for Contacts

CPYRGHT

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the United States Embassy in Spain and demanded that Gallo take him personally to Beria. Gallo said he could not do that because this attache could not produce proper guarantees.

Gallo said the agent insisted he had been sent by the American government to handle the case. Gallo refused to believe him because he did not have any of the guarantees and did not exhibit any knowledge of them. Gallo said the attache then said that "if you don't co-operate with me, I'll turn you over to the Spanish police, and you know what they will do to you."

## SPANISH HELPFUL

However, when the Spanish police did receive the case, they extended complete co-operation.

For six weeks United States authorities have refused to take the case seriously. It has been only in the last few days that they have shown considerable interest in the matter.

Gallo, who was taken into custody by Spanish police after he had tried to draw away from the story, evidently in fear of some retribution, has been released for another try to bring the case to an end. The story has been censored in Spain, but 12 of the top agents of the secret police have been working with Gallo.

The story has been investigated now for almost two months and the conclusion to this almost unparalleled international mystery is not yet in sight.

# Spanish Police Seek Aid in 'Beria' Case

CPYRGHT

By GENE FUSON  
San Diego Union Staff Writer

San Diego  
9 Oct 53

PARIS, France, Oct. 8.—Spanish police today asked me to return to Madrid to work with Fabio Gallo in an effort to bring the case of Lavrenti Beria to a conclusion.

They want me to work with Gallo in attempting to establish other contacts with the man Gallo says represented himself as the purged leader of the Soviet secret police.

Spanish police are convinced there is some truth to Gallo's claim he knows that Beria escaped from Russia and is seeking sanctuary in the United States.

Vicente Reguengo, chief of Spanish political police, also told me he thinks Gerhart Eisler may be in Spain, perhaps with the man supposed to be Beria. Beria directed the Red international espionage rings of which Eisler had been a member.

## Editorial on Page b-4

Eisler fled the United States in 1949 as a stowaway aboard the Polish liner Batory and made his way to East Germany. He jumped bail of \$23,000 in New York in May of that year while under conviction for illegal entry.

Identified at one time as the No. 1 Communist in the United States, Eisler was ousted last April as propaganda boss for the East Germany Communist regime. Press dispatches said he retired from public life to write his memoirs.

Gallo told Spanish police he met Beria in Gibraltar, as a result of a prior secret arrangement, but was unable to effect his delivery to the United States—or anywhere else—because the United States had failed to forward the requested guarantees of safety in America.

Gallo said he received no co-operation from United States attaches in Spain.

He said that one man who identified himself as an attache of (Continued on Page a-2, Col. 3)